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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, before whose face the generations rise and fall, we pause to thank You for Your loving kindness in the morning and Your faithfulness every night. Cleanse the purposes and desires of our lawmakers as they face the tasks committed to their hands. May they walk with You throughout this day in trust and peace. Lord, may they not be afraid to face facts, however unpleasant. When the way is uncertain and the problems baffling, inspire them to ask You for light for but one step at a time. Keep their lips clean and their thoughts pure, and may they never doubt the ultimate triumph of truth. Let Your kingdom come in us and through us.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 22, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the energy speculation legislation. Sometime after 11 today, the Senate will proceed to a rollcall vote on the motion to proceed to the bill. The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 in order to allow for the weekly caucus luncheons. Tomorrow, there will be a classified briefing for Senators in S-407 from 4 until 5:30 p.m. with National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the final 20 minutes prior to the cloture vote today be divided between Senator McCONNELL and me or our designees, with my controlling the final 10 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3297

Mr. REID. Mr. President, S. 3297 is at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3297) to advance America's priorities.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

CLEAN BOATING ACT OF 2008

CLARIFYING PERMITS FOR DISCHARGES FROM CERTAIN VESSELS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills en bloc: Calendar No. 832, S. 2766, and S. 3298, introduced earlier today by Senator MURKOWSKI.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bills by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2766) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to address certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of a recreational vessel.

A bill (S. 3298) to clarify the circumstances during which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and applicable States may require permits for discharges from certain vessels, and to require the Administrator to conduct a study of discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to support legislation that will provide a 2-year moratorium on National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits for all commercial fishing vessels of any size and for all other commercial vessels less than 79 feet. The legislation requires the EPA, working with the Coast Guard, to conduct a 15-month study during the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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